



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-0586)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

**Present:** Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Vice Chairperson Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Eleanor R. Montañó and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

**Excused:** Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

**Staff present:** Bolaji Famuyiwa and Roy Sinclair. (16-0589)

**Call to Order.** (16-0418)

**Chairperson Bigby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Chairperson Bigby led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

- 1. Approval of the January 13, 2016 Minutes. (16-0419)**

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Eleanor R. Montañó, unanimously carried, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (16-0420)**

**Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of December 2015 and reported that there were a total of 14 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls.**

**In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that there were 4 Outreach visits to the following facilities:**

- Life Circles**
- Olive Crest Treatment Centers, Inc.**
- Bourne Inc.**
- Casa Editha Foundation**

**3. Internal Services Department (ISD). (16-0421)**

**There was no report presented.**

**4. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (16-0422)**

**Mark Callender, DMH, reported that Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg is still working to get someone from DMH to come and present at an SBC meeting. He also stated that DMH continues to work with the Sheriff's Department in providing mental health services to inmates.**

**Vice Chairperson Grills, Ph.D. stated that SBC would like to have someone from DMH to come and address the Commission regarding the specific mental health services such as type, quantity and quality, and access to medication as well as a copy of protocols for oversight of the program.**

**Mr. Bart Callender will forward the Commission's request to Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg for follow-up and coordination with Commission Services staff.**

**5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (16-0423)**

**Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of December 2015 there were a total of 593 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 13 referrals in the following categories:**

- 5 Physical Abuse (PA)**
- 3 Sexual Abuse (SA)**
- 3 General Neglect (GN)**
- 2 Severe Neglect (SN)**

**Total referrals closed: 27**

- 5 GN**
- 9 SA**
- 11 PA**
- 8 Evaluated Out**
- 8 Inconclusive**
- 8 Unfounded**
- 2 Not Investigated**
- 1 Non-Contracted facility**

**Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez also reported that there were no group homes placed on hold during the month of December 2015. However, the following facilities remain on hold:**

- Lifecircles**
- Sand Hill Group Home**
- Macro Group Home**

**Ms. Patricia Bolanos-Gonzalez introduced Ms. Lisa Sorenson, Office of Medical Director and Aldo Marin, DCFS Office of Board Relations, she stated that Ms. Sorenson and Mr. Marin came to address the Commissions questions and concerns regarding the administering and monitoring of psychotropic medications in group homes.**

**Addressing the Commission's concerns regarding psychotropic medications, Ms. Sorenson stated that under the supervision of the Children's juvenile Court, the Dependency Court must receive authorization from to courts to administer psychotropic medications to the youth in group homes. She also stated that the Courts with assistance from the Juvenile Court and Mental Health Services review all proposed protocols for the use**

of psychotropic medications that are submitted by psychiatrist that are employed by the group homes before the youth are permitted to use them.

She further reported that the children's Social Workers check the status of the psychotropic medication's effects on both the youth and staff. A Status Review report is submitted on a monthly basis to the courts by the social worker. The effects of the medications are noted in the Mental Health section of the Status Review reports that are submitted to the courts every six months.

Staff was directed to work with Ms. Sorenson and Mr. Marin to coordinate having representatives from the Office of Child Protection, Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department and Department of Mental Health to come and present at a future Commission meeting.

**6. Probation Department (PD). (16-0424)**

**Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for the month of December 2015 as follows:**

**There were a total of 107 AWOLs with the following results:**

- 53 Remain AWOL**
- 40 Returned to group homes**
- 14 Placed in Juvenile Hall**

**Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with detailed monthly status reports of group home AWOLs during the month of December 2015.**

**7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (16-0425)**

**Commander Henry Romero, SD, reported that the SD is in the process of determining whether they have enough space at Century Regional Detention Facility to add DMH staff. DMH will be hiring five supervisors, four clinicians, four jail mental case workers, one jail linkage, one jail linkage case worker, one jail commissioner and one case worker. He also provided statistics on the number of inmates diagnosed with mental health issues.**

Vice Chairperson Grills, Ph.D. and Commissioner Burton noted that a female inmate at CRDF was having issues getting proper care for her matted hair and asked that they look into the issue.

During a brief discussion, Commissioner Burton expressed her interest in knowing what qualifies an inmate to participate in the Ankle Monitoring program.

Sergeant April Carter reported that there are currently 39 females and 94 males participating in the Ankle Monitoring program and that she will forward a report as well as program qualifications to staff for distribution to the Commission. She will also provide a copy of the 2016 Town Hall meeting schedule for Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers.

8. Office of the Inspector General (OIG). (16-0428)

**There was no report presented.**

**III. COMMISSION REPORTS**

9. Chairperson's Report on various items. (16-0426)

**There was no report presented.**

10. Treasurer's Report. (16-0427)

**There was no report presented.**

11. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (16-0429)

**There was no report presented.**

12. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from January 14, 2016 to January 19, 2016. (16-0430)

**During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:**

**Chairperson Bigby visited:**

- Girls Republic (Ivy Ave., Monrovia, CA) on January 15, 2016.
- Rosemary's Children's Services (Oakland Ave, Pasadena, CA) on January 19, 2016.

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**Vice Chairperson Grills and Commissioner Burton visited:**

- **Loving Life Group Home (Hobart, Los Angeles, CA) on January 15, 2016.**

**Commissioner Duran visited:**

- **Boys & Girls Republic (Garvey, Pomona, CA) on January 11, 2016.**

**Commissioner Andrews visited:**

- **Los Angeles Youth Network (Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA) on January 15, 2016.**

**Commissioners Andrews and Montaña visited:**

- **Santa Clarita Court House (Valencia Bl., Santa Clarita, CA) on January 19, 2016.**

**During the reporting period, the following facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:**

- **Century Regional Detention Facility (South Alameda Street, Lynwood, CA) Dorm 2400, Pods 1, 2 and 3 on January 15, 2016 and noted that Pod 2 has water leaking in from a cell above; Pod 3 cell #12; an inmate was placed on suicide watch for 22 days and only saw the clinician after being placed in the anxiety department. Inmates complained that staff was very rude to them.**

**IV. DISCUSSIONS**

- 13.** Discussion and appropriate action regarding the Facilities Inspection Scheduling Tool schedule (FIST) and the SBC Commissioners' inspection assignments. (16-0431)

**Chairperson Bigby reported that she reviewed the Facilities Inspection Scheduling Tool (FIST) and noted that she noticed that Commissioners were inspecting facilities that are outside their Supervisorial District. She also noted the number of inspection sites within the following Districts:**

- **First - 74, Second - 37, Third - 39, Fourth - 29 and Fifth - 81.**

**A brief discussion was held on the protocol that Commissioners should follow prior to conducting out of District inspections.**

**During discussion, Chairperson Bigby stated that Commissioners should conduct inspections within their respective Districts and should consult with the Commission prior to conducting inspections in other districts. Commissioners who desire to conduct inspections outside of their District should try to conduct inspections in the Districts with the higher number of facilities, such as the First and Fifth District.**

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Theresa Zhen, seconded by Commissioner Susan Burton, the Commission approved utilizing the FIST to schedule inspection assignments and to prioritize inspections specific to each Commissioner's Supervisorial District. Inspections that are being conducted outside of any Commissioner's District must be approved by the SBC Chairperson at a Commission meeting prior to conducting the inspection, this item was approved with the following vote:

**Ayes:** 5 - Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Chairperson  
Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton, Vice  
Chairperson Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner  
Theresa Zhen

**Noes:** 3 - Commissioner Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner  
Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Percy Duran III

**Excused:** 2 - Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg and Commissioner  
Anne S. Hill

14. Discussion and appropriate action regarding the Inmate Welfare Fund correspondence (IWF). (16-0432)

**This item was continued without discussion to the meeting of January 27, 2016.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
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15. Review and Discussion of the Sybil Brand Commission's Educational Scholarship Application. (16-0433)

**This item was continued without discussion to the meeting of January 27, 2016.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Matters Not Posted**

16. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (16-0434)

**The following item was introduced by Vice Chairperson Cheryl Grills, Ph.D. for discussion and will be placed on a future agenda:**

- **Discussion regarding the Los Angeles County's emergency shelters for group homes.**

**Public Comment**

17. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-0435)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

18. Adjournment for the meeting of January 20, 2016. (16-0436)

**There being no further business, Chairperson Bigby adjourned the meeting of January 20, 2016 at 12:23 p.m.**